

Commodity Supplemental Food Program

1. What is the CSFP?

[The Commodity Supplemental Food Program](#) (CSFP) works to improve the health of low-income pregnant and breastfeeding women, other new mothers up to one year postpartum, infants, children up to age six, and elderly people at least 60 years of age by supplementing their diets with nutritious USDA commodity foods. It provides food and administrative funds to States to supplement the diets of these groups.

The population served by CSFP is similar to that served by USDA's [Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children \(WIC\)](#), but CSFP also serves elderly people, and provides food rather than the food vouchers that WIC participants receive. Eligible people cannot participate in both programs at the same time.

CSFP food packages do not provide a complete diet, but rather are good sources of the nutrients typically lacking in the diets of the target population.

CSFP is administered at the Federal level by the [Food and Nutrition Service](#) (FNS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The program is authorized under Section 4(a) of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973. Federal regulations covering CFSP can be found in 7 CFR, [Parts 247](#) and [250](#).

An average of more than 407,000 people each month participated in the program in fiscal year

(FY) 2001, including more than 323,000 elderly people and more than 83,000 women, infants, and children.

2. How does the program operate?

USDA purchases food and makes it available to State agencies and [Indian Tribal Organizations](#) (ITOs), along with funds for administrative costs. State agencies that administer CSFP are typically departments of health, social services, education, or agriculture. State agencies store the food and distribute it to public and non-profit private local agencies.

Local agencies determine the eligibility of applicants, distribute the foods, and provide nutrition education. Local agencies also provide referrals to other welfare, nutrition, and health care programs such as food stamps, Medicaid, and Medicare.

3. How much does CSFP cost?

For FY 2002, Congress appropriated \$92.813 million for CSFP. For fiscal year 2001, the appropriation was \$95.3 million. Annual appropriations may be supplemented by unspent funds carried over from the previous fiscal year.

4. Is this program available in every State?

No. The CSFP is authorized to operate only in the following States:

Arizona	New Mexico
California	New York
Colorado	North Carolina
District of Columbia	North Dakota
Illinois	Oglala Sioux Reservation (SD)
Iowa	Ohio
Kansas	Oregon
Kentucky	Pennsylvania
Louisiana	Red Lake Reservation (MN)
Michigan	South Dakota
Minnesota	Tennessee
Mississippi	Texas
Missouri	Vermont
Montana	Washington
Nebraska	Wisconsin
New Hampshire	

For the address and telephone number of the [State Distributing Agency](#) that administers the program in any of the States listed above, click on the applicable State above.

5. What are the requirements to get food through CSFP?

Women, infants, children, and the elderly must reside in one of the States or on one of the Indian reservations that participate in CSFP.

While elderly persons must have income at or below 130 percent of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines (currently \$15,522 for a family of two), women, infants, and children must meet income eligibility requirements established by the State (typically 185 percent of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines),

States may also establish local residency requirements based on designated service areas (but may not require a minimum period of residency). States may also require that participants be at nutritional risk.

Risk assessment can be based on a variety of measures, including height and weight measurements and blood tests. Examples of nutritional risk conditions include anemia and inappropriate weight for height.

6. What foods are provided to participants?

Food packages include a variety of foods, such as infant formula and cereal, non-fat dry and evaporated milk, juice, farina, oats, ready-to-eat cereal, rice, pasta, egg mix, peanut butter, dry beans or peas, canned meat or poultry or tuna, cheese, and canned fruits and vegetables.

For a list of foods available for CSFP for FY 2002, visit the FD web site at: www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/foods_avail/2002/fy02_csfpsfood.pdf.

7. Who should I contact for more information about CSFP?

For more information about CSFP if it operates in your State, we suggest that you contact your [State Distributing Agency](#).

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